



# Fidelity

*United Empire Loyalist Association of  
Canada  
Toronto Branch*



Volume 28 Issue 4

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## New Loyalist Research Resource

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Noted Ontario genealogist Brenda Dougall Merriman has just published a new book, one that is being described as a landmark work and an essential tool for anyone researching Loyalist genealogy.

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*United Empire Loyalists, a Guide to Tracing Loyalist Ancestors in Upper Canada (Ontario)* is a general guide for those just beginning to trace their Loyalist ancestors that will also be useful to the more experienced researcher. The book begins with the basic but very necessary definition of what a Loyalist is—there is more than one “kind”! Subsequent chapters deal with a guide to sources, the land allocation process, common pitfalls and fallacies, how to interpret the records, and include a section on the UELAC itself. The book contains numerous helpful maps and illustrations.

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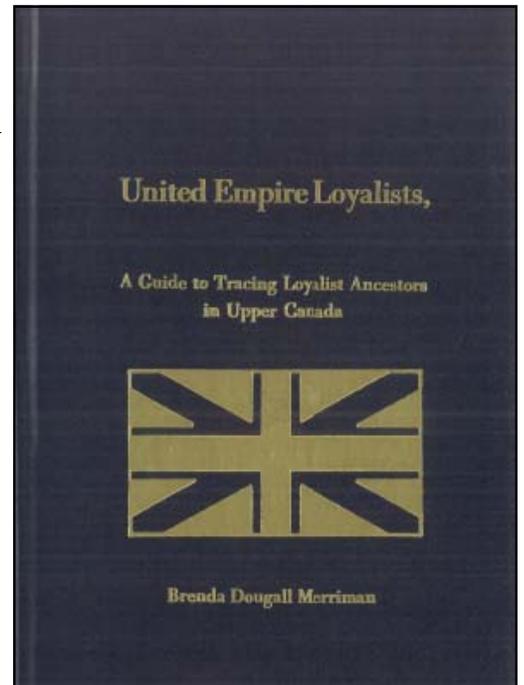
In the words of Kathie Orr, Past President of the Toronto branch UELAC, *“Brenda’s expertise and years of experience in researching the records of this period have given us a reference tool we have long needed; the book is a ‘must have’ for the Loyalist searcher.”*

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*United Empire Loyalists, a Guide to Tracing Loyalist Ancestors in Upper Canada (Ontario)* is published by Global Heritage Press Inc. For more information on this book or to order it, call 1.800.361.5168 or visit [www.GlobalHeritagePress.com](http://www.GlobalHeritagePress.com). The website also provides information on other genealogical publications published and/or carried by Global Heritage Press.

A copy of this book will also be available for perusing in the branch library.



## Fall 2006 and Spring 2007 Branch Meetings



Our speaker series resumes in September after the summer break. We will be trying something a little different this fall and so September's meeting will be held on the afternoon of **Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup>** with refreshments at 1:30 p.m. and the meeting proper beginning at 2:00. Our speaker will be **Ron Dale**, Superintendent of Parks Canada – Niagara National Historic Sites of Canada, War of 1812 author and expert.

At the outbreak of War of 1812, the York region was not as densely populated as was the Niagara region. While many sons of Loyalists were of military age, many of the residents of York were relatively recent immigrants from the U.S.—born under the Republic and often the sons of men who had been on the Rebel side during the Revolution. General Isaac Brock was unsure how they would react if and when an American army invaded. Would they fight to defend their new land, would they remain neutral or would they turn coat and help the invaders?

We all know how the battle ended but what is the story behind it? Come and hear "**Upper Canada Preserved: the York Militia at the Battle of Queenston Heights**".

On **Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup>** we have the pleasure of welcoming **Gavin Watt** to regale us with "**Some Fascinating Stories About Royal Yorker Soldiers**". Refreshments will be served at 1:30 p.m. and the formal meeting will begin at 2:00.

William Lamb, well known historian, author and minister will be speaking to us on **Wednesday November 17<sup>th</sup>**. His topic will be "**Charles Wesley's unpublished poems and his support of the Loyalist cause.**" 2007 marks the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Charles Wesley (1707-1788), an early supporter/leader of the Methodist movement. Wesley published hundreds of poems and hymns including some that are remain favourites today, such as "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing". Many of his poems support the loyalist movement. William Lamb will talk to us about these poems and what they tell us about Charles Wesley and English society at the time.

Looking forward to our program in 2007, February is **Black History Month** and who better to speak to us than **Rosemary Sadlier**, President of the Black History Society?

In March, Toronto branch member **Randy Saylor** will speak about the **Quakers of West Lake** (near Adolphustown) and their opposition to the granting of land for military service. This should generate some interesting discussions!

The monthly meetings are held at the branch office at **40 Scollard Street, Suite 300**. Scollard Street is three short blocks north of Yonge Street from Bloor. The **#6 Bay Street bus** stops at Bay and Yorkville, which is only one short block from Scollard Street. Members are welcome to come early for refreshments and to peruse the library and to meet fellow members before the formal meeting starts. There is metered parking on the street and several parking lots in the neighbourhood. Once in the lobby, **buzz #1500** for access.

# The Black Loyalists: A Digital Collections Site

This site explores an untold story of our nation's history: how Canada became the home of the first settlements of free blacks outside Africa.

As Revolution began in the thirteen American colonies in the late 1770s, the British were badly outnumbered. When in desperation they promised freedom to any slave of a rebel who fought the Americans on their behalf, the response was greater than they could have imagined; as many as 30,000 slaves escaped to British lines. Working as soldiers, labourers, pilots, cooks, and musicians, they were a major part of the unsuccessful British war effort. As defeat became inevitable, these free blacks were evacuated to Nova Scotia with the other Loyalists.

But their hoped-for promised land never arrived. Their land was never granted and most were reduced to a position not so different from slavery, where they were dependent on the meagre wages they could earn from manual labour. In the end most chose to seek a new life in Sierra Leone, away from the cold lands where they had experienced so much prejudice.

This is the story of those Black Loyalists, told at: <http://collections.ic.gc.ca/blackloyalists/index.htm> To learn more about the Black Loyalist story, click on the *Our Story* icon and begin reading the story of their experience. In the *People* section you can read short biographies of prominent Black Loyalists, and the *Communities* section contains descriptions and maps of the various Black Loyalist communities.

The *Documents* section contains a number of original historical documents which have been transcribed, including several first hand accounts of life as a Black Loyalist in Nova Scotia. In addition

there are court records, official proclamations, personal letters, and a wealth of other material. There is an active Black Loyalist Heritage Society in Birchtown, N.S. which sponsored the development of this site. ([www.blackloyalist.com](http://www.blackloyalist.com))

*This information was sourced from the Black Loyalist Section of the Industry Canada website.*

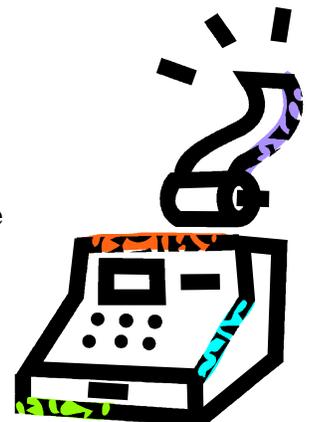


## Fundraising Update

Dominion/A & P Save-A-Tape Program is coming to an end, effective December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2006.

Thank you to all the members who have helped us raise money over the years by submitting your grocery tapes from Dominion and A&P.

The program is still in effect for a few more months, so if you have been saving up tapes, please bring them to a monthly meeting or mail them to the branch office. Let's make our last effort our most successful!



## Toronto Branch UELAC

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**Treasurer:** Karen Windover UE  
**Archives:** Anne Rahamut UE

## Branch Christmas Luncheon

Christmas is a busy time of year so we don't think it's too early to ask members to set aside **Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>** for the Toronto branch Christmas luncheon.

The location will be Black Creek Pioneer Village, with lots of surprises in store.

Please mark your calendar for that date and look for more details in the next issue of Fidelity. We look forward to seeing many members there.



## Summer Office Hours

We would like to remind members of the Toronto branch office hours.

The office is open and staffed **Mondays** and **Thursdays** from **10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

## The Next Issue



Fidelity is published bimonthly. Submissions are most welcome; articles may be edited for length or content.

The next issue of Fidelity will be the October/November issue. The deadline for submissions is **Sunday, October 1st**.

Submissions can be emailed to [susan.ellsworth@omd.com](mailto:susan.ellsworth@omd.com) or mailed to her attention at the branch office.

Thanks for technical assistance go to **Kathie Orr UE**.